

FORTUNE IN FLYBRUSHES

PEACOCK FEATHERS ARE COMING BACK INTO FASHION.

How to Tell When the Feathers Are "Ripe"—Choice Brushes Sell For Fifty Dollars—Facts About the Tails of the Proud Birds.

The old-fashioned fly brushes of peacock feathers are coming back into fashion, and one woman in South Carolina is making a snug little income by the manufacture and sale of them to Northern visitors.

"Of course the feathers must be plucked in May or the early part of June if you wish to have them in the best condition," said this maker of peacock fly brushes, whose name, by the way, is Mrs. John Jones. "After that time the fowl begins to shed them and they are not so good. I sometimes pluck a part of a tail and let the bird go for another week, because I find all the feathers are not ripe. How can I tell? Why, when there is the slightest blood at the stems. When perfectly ripe they come out easily and the stems are not the slightest bit discolored.

"In prices my brushes range from \$25 to \$50. Those at the first-named price contain only the feathers from one fowl, while the more expensive ones have carefully sorted feathers from half a dozen tails.

"In making I begin with the handles, the foundation of which is of some strong, light wood. Over this wooden stick I fit the long stems of the best tail feathers, which I have scraped clean and white. Then I weave back and forth over and under these stems black or dark-green braid about an inch in width. The effect is very pretty and it will last as long as there is a feather. The lower end of this handle I finish by a neat cap of leather the color of the braid.

"I next prepare to put on the brush. In the smaller or upper end of the stick I have cut three grooves; on the upper of these I fasten a funnel-shaped piece of pasteboard—the small end just fitting the stick—by wrapping with a strong flax thread. This done, I put on the first row of feathers. Selecting the long ones, I fit the stems around the funnel, carefully keeping the feather ends on a line and the eyes turned out. Then I tie them, first at the groove where the tunnel is tied and then in the groove below, clipping the stems off just below the second wrapping.

"Next, with a coarse needle and some of the flax thread, I string these feathers and tack firmly to the pasteboard funnel about a half-inch from the upper edge. Remember that the success of your brush depends on the security with which this first row is attached to the stick and the pasteboard funnel. Between the top of this pasteboard and the eyes of this row the feathers must be strung three times and the thread firmly tied.

"The next row is put on about the same way, except that the ends of the feathers come far enough down to show the eyes in the first row, while the stems are wrapped in the middle and lowest grooves. The succeeding rows are much more easily fitted in, as there are but three points to observe: First, let the eyes of the preceding row be plainly visible; second, wrap the stem ends firmly, and third, string them in such a manner that the threads will not show. A brush so made will show a succession of peacock eyes, and the effect is exceedingly rich.

"Now, to cover the wrapping where brush and handle meet, I either put on a tapering leather cover to match the cap at the lower end of the handle or I cover a piece of stiff canvas with the breast feathers I think make the handsomest and the most appropriate base from which the tail feathers appear to spring. I sometimes cover the handles with plaited leather or with palmetto, but most of my orders have been for stem and braid coverings.

"Peafowls are not numerous, as they lay very few eggs. The first year a hen lays only two eggs and then one more for every year after. The young are very delicate, but when matured I think they almost never die. Two of my cocks, I am sure, are twenty-five years old. They are very useful on a farm, as they frighten away hawks, thus protecting the other poultry, and the negroes and many well-informed whites have great faith in them as weather prophets.

"I have ten cocks, consequently have only ten tails a season of my own raising, but I buy those of other farmers' wives all through the State, paying from \$2 to \$5, according to the quality of the feathers. The older a fowl the heavier and better is its tail in a good season. I have all the summer and fall to make my brushes and so I do the work entirely. Last season I sold forty, while for next season I already have sixty-eight ordered. I don't think they really are going to be used to brush away the flies at meals, as they are here in the South, but will be adapted as ornamental, and many ladies will add them to their oriental rooms or corners. It has always been a mystery to me why the feathers of these fowls have not some regular market value, as they are beautiful, durable and can be taken from the bird without causing it pain. Some day I am sure they will be much sought after, so I am gradually increasing my flock."—Chicago Record.

Rescue Apparatus For Coal Miners.

A new rescue apparatus for coal miners, made in Vienna, embraces an oxygen container, a tight-fitting mask and a breathing bag in the form of a rubber cloth collar containing quicklime for absorbing carbonic acid and water vapor. The wearer of these appliances can go at will into mines filled with foul gases.

ARGONAUTS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Scenes Following the Discovery of Gold in the Transvaal.

Klyda R. Steege, writing of South Africa in St. Nicholas, tells of the discovery of gold in the Transvaal, and the growth of Johannesburg.

A German named Mauch was the first to discover evidences of gold in the Transvaal, but, failing to interest his fellow countrymen in mining in so difficult and distant a country, nothing came of his discovery. Not until an Englishman, Struben by name, found the gold of the Transvaal, again, was any special interest taken in the matter. He spread the news, and in a year's time from the first opening of the country, twenty thousand people had arrived on the spot, eager to make fortunes. They came from every part of the world and included every class of persons—miners from California and other Western States, younger sons of well-known English families, adventurers, and speculators, and people who had given up respectable, steady occupations and businesses to join in the mad rush for gold. This crowd of excited, eager men (some women and children were among them, too) pitched tents, or nailed together a few boards for protection, or built frail, leaky shanties with roofs of iron bent into wavy ridges—corrugated—and began their new life.

They were over a thousand miles from the sea-coast, and some of them, who could not find any other method of traveling, or could not afford another, had come, after leaving the railroad, five hundred miles on foot.

There they were, when they reached the gold-fields, in a country without trees or vegetation other than grass, on the high, bare veldt (like our prairie), the great South African plateau, which is, in the Transvaal, about six thousand feet above sea-level, and to which all material for building, all conveniences and necessities for living, and much of their food had to be brought in ox-carts, and carried sometimes from even the distant coast.

This was in 1886, and now, where the first little wooden sheds and tents were put up, stands Johannesburg, a city of one hundred thousand inhabitants, a fine town with good buildings, electric lights, and street railways. Stretching away from it toward the east and west runs the gold region, some forty or fifty miles in length. You will hear this reef, which was in prehistoric times the edge of a great ocean basin, called the Rand. This term is an abbreviation of Witwatersrand, which means white water ridge, and the ridge, or reef, forms the watershed between the Atlantic and Indian oceans. There are a great many of these Rand mines, and the amount of gold taken from them has long since exceeded the supply from any other part of the world. California and Australia are left quite behind in their production. You would not care for too many figures, but when you realize that the Transvaal gold has frequently reached a value of about five million dollars a month, it is quite an overwhelming thought how rich the mines are. Enormous fortunes have been made from them, and men who arrived in the Transvaal without a cent have grown rich, while, on the other hand, numbers of people have ventured everything and lost all they had. Johannesburg is a city where everybody speculates, and a great amount of money is wasted every day. People make money quickly, and spend it as fast, and one pays for almost everything a great deal more than it is worth.

On Reading Aloud.

It is a distinct loss that reading is so badly taught and that so few people know anything about the magic of the poets in their use of sound. We read almost exclusively with the eye, although poetry is primarily intended for the ear. Shakespeare wrote almost exclusively for the ear, and we remain unmoved by the wonderful vibration of his great passages until we hear them. Poetry ought always to be heard first and read afterwards. If the best of Browning is sympathetically and intelligently interpreted by the voice, the much-discussed obscurity is not in evidence. Many people find, for instance, a little difficulty in getting the clear and full significance of "The Portrait of the Last Duchess," when they read it for the first time; but it fastens itself instantly on the imagination if it is well read. A good deal of time, now devoted to commentaries and text-study, might profitably be given to reading the text aloud, without note or comment. A work of art slowly discloses its full meaning, and familiarity with it is the first condition of comprehension.—Hamilton Mabie, in Harper's Bazar.

Futility of Night Attacks.

One thing that some British military experts think the South African War has decided is the futility of night attacks. Night fights may be justified and successful under certain conditions. These conditions are: First, secrecy; second, the employment of the very best troops and the most skillful staff. To attack in force means either that your troops advance in an extremely close formation, and thus lay themselves open to heavy losses; or, if they are distributed, there is the almost certain chance that a number will go astray or spoil the whole enterprise by some unheeded effect.

Age Told by Dress.

When ladies go to buy a dress in Japan they tell the shop-keeper their age, and if they are married or not, because there are special designs for the single and double relations of life, as well as for ages. The consequence of this painful custom is that you can tell the age of every lady you meet, and you know whether she is married, precisely as though she were labelled.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS:



To Clean Varnished Paints.

Take the tea leaves which are left in the teapot, pour some hot water over them, and let them stand ten minutes. Then pour the tea into a basin. Wash the paint with a clean flannel, and dry with a clean cloth.

Suggestion of an Expert Laundress.

An expert laundress says that if sheets and tablecloths are folded so that the selvedge edges will pass through the wringer first they will be smoother and less likely to curl. She also sounds a note of caution against the habit of pouring boiling water on soiled clothes. "You know," she says, "if you submit anything that is soft to the action of the heat it will bake it hard. Pour boiling water in the cake dish and it will cook the dough in it. So if you pour very hot water on the clothes it cooks the dirt in. If you are going to soak clothes you will soak them in lukewarm water. I wash all the clothes in lukewarm water. In summer only a little warmer than it comes from the faucet. Some people put all the clothes to soak—the clean and dirty together. This should never be done. It does not seem quite nice to put table linen with soiled clothes from the bed or body, and, moreover, the dirt from the soiled clothes gets into the clean ones and makes them grimy."

Uses For Lemons.

No family should be without lemons. Their uses are almost too many for enumeration.

The juice of a lemon in hot water on awakening in the morning is an excellent liver corrective, and for stout women is better than any anti-fat medicine ever invented.

Glycerine and lemon juice, half and half, on a bit of absorbent cotton, is the best thing in the world wherewith to moisten the lips and tongue of a fever-paroled patient.

A dash of lemon juice in plain water is an excellent tooth wash. It not only removes tartar, but sweetens the breath.

A teaspoonful of the juice in a small cup of black coffee will almost certainly relieve a bilious headache.

The finest of manicure acids is made by putting a teaspoonful of lemon juice in a cupful of warm water. This removes most stains from the fingers and nails and loosens the cuticle more satisfactorily than can be done by the use of a sharp instrument.

Lemon juice and salt will remove rust stains from linen without injury to the fabric. Wet the stains with the mixture and put the article in the sun. Two or three applications may be necessary if the stain is of long standing, but the remedy never fails.

Lemon juice (outward application) will allay the irritation caused by the bites of gnats or flies.

HOUSEHOLD RECIPES:

French Biscuit—One cup of butter, one cup of sugar, the stiffly beaten white of one egg, one cup of thick sour milk, half a teaspoonful of soda dissolved in a very little hot water, flour to roll. Sprinkle with sugar. Cut into large circles and bake about twenty minutes.

Welsh Rarebit With Milk—One large cup finely grated cheese; season to taste; add one well beaten egg and mix with fresh milk to the consistency of cream. Put into a pan, and when just up to the boil, pour over hot buttered toast. It never curdles or gets stringy with this recipe.

English Monkey—Melt one tablespoonful of butter in a stewpan and add one cup of grated cheese. When this is melted add one cup of fine breadcrumbs which have been allowed to stand ten minutes in a cup of milk. Then add one egg lightly beaten. Stir a moment and serve hot on buttered toast.

Custard Balls—Take the yolks of two eggs and whites of one. Stir into the well beaten yolk a wineglassful of cold strong beef tea seasoned with a half saltspoon of salt and a pinch of white pepper. Lastly stir in the stiffened white. Drop from a teaspoon on top of the hot soup. Cover for a moment and take from the fire. Serve one in each plate of soup.

Bread Omelet—Mix well together one cupful of stale breadcrumbs, one-half cupful of sweet milk, one-half teaspoonful of salt, a little pepper and the beaten yolks of three eggs, then add lightly the whites of the eggs beaten very stiff. Put one tablespoonful of butter into a frying pan; when hot pour in the omelet and cook slowly until the top is set, then fold over and serve immediately.

Asparagus Patties—Make a sauce of three level tablespoonfuls each of butter and flour and half a cupful each of chicken broth, cream or milk, and the water in which a bunch of asparagus has been boiled. Add the beaten yolks of two eggs, a teaspoonful of lemon juice, a saltspoonful of salt and a dash of pepper and a bunch of hot asparagus, cut in small pieces and cooked until tender. Serve in hot puff-paste shells.

Gold Medal Prize Treatise, 25 Cts.—The Science of Life, or Self-Preservation, 865 pages, with engravings, 25 cts., paper cover; cloth, full gilt, \$1, by mail. A book for every man, young, middle-aged or old. A million copies sold. Address the Peabody Medical Institute, No. 4 Bulfinch St., Boston, Mass., the oldest and best institute in America. Prospectus Vade Mecum free. Six cts. for postage. Write to-day for these books. They are the keys to health, vigor, success and happiness.

Consul Van Buren, of Nice, states that an American company has just completed a new electric traction system there.

Are You Using Allen's Foot Ease?

It is the only cure for Swollen, Smarting, Tired, Aching, Hot, Sweating Feet, Corns and Bunions. Ask for Allen's Foot-Ease, a powder to be shaken into the shoes. Cures while you walk. At all Drugists and Shoe Stores, 25c. Sample sent FREE. Address Allen S. Olmsted, LeRoy, N. Y.

A Dry Sermon.

"How was the temperance sermon yesterday?" "Dry."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Mrs. Pinkham

The one thing that qualifies a person to give advice on any subject is experience—experience creates knowledge.

No other person has so wide an experience with female ills nor such a record of success as Mrs. Pinkham has had.

Over a hundred thousand cases come before her each year. Some personally, others by mail. And this has been going on for 20 years, day after day and day after day.

Twenty years of constant success—think of the knowledge thus gained! Surely women are wise in seeking advice from a woman with such an experience, especially when it is free.

If you are ill get a bottle of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound at once—then write Mrs. Pinkham, Lynn, Mass.



If afflicted with sore eyes, use Thompson's Eye Water

Sweat and fruit acids will not discolor goods dyed with PUTNAM FADELESS DYES. Sold by all druggists.

An inventive genius has produced a tobacco pipe which has a whistle in the stem, in order to enable the smoker to summon a cab without taking the pipe from his mouth.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, 25c. a bottle, vigor, success and happiness.

Fargo, N. D., with a population of less than 11,000, has 88 secret societies.

The Best Prescription for Chills and Fever is a bottle of GHOVA'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC. It is simply iron and quinine in a tasteless form. No cure—no pay. Price 50c.

Sixteen parks are maintained by the City of Mexico.

I do not believe Piso's Cure for Consumption has an equal for coughs and colds.—John F. Boyer, Trinity Springs, Ind., Feb. 15, 1900.

There are 9,000 cells in a square foot of honeycomb.

Have you ever experienced the joyful sensation of a good appetite? You will if you chew Adam's Peppin Tutti Frutti.

Buenos Ayres has twenty excellent markets in the city.

FITS permanently cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve-Reliever. Serial bottle and treatise free. Dr. R. H. KLINE, Ltd., 631 Arch St., Phila., Pa.

TO FRAME BRIDE'S PICTURE.

How a New Chicago Matron Remembered Her Friends.

A recent Chicago bride who was going out of town to live distributed photographs of herself and farewell gifts to her relatives and friends and had them framed in a unique and attractive manner. They were to be mounted under glass in the manner familiar to all and known as passe-partout, but instead of the usual mat of linen or cardboard she used a material which was especially appropriate, and one which made frame as well as picture worthy of being preserved among the family heirlooms.

The picture which she gave her mother had a mat of the white satin which had been used for her wedding dress, and across one corner was a bit of the lace with which the dress was trimmed. To a sister she gave a picture also mounted in the white satin, but with a design of orange blossoms embroidered upon it, while the mount for the one given her maid of honor was of the white satin embroidered with a graceful spray of bride roses. Friends less near received pictures mounted with the goods which had gone to make up the different gowns of her trousseau. The mount made from the material of her "going-away gown" had forget-me-nots embroidered in small scattered sprays, while some of the silk and figured goods were made up plain, being sufficiently decorative in themselves. In each case the mounted picture was bound in the glass with a narrow strip of soft leather in a shade to correspond with the color of the mount. Upon the back of each was plainly written the name and date of the wedding. It is needless to state that the gifts were prized as the pictures alone never could have been, and it is safe to predict that other brides will follow the graceful fashion.—Chicago Chronicle.

An Exception to the Rule. "We ought to put more personal warmth in our letters." "Oh, I don't know. A man I knew once put a lot of personal warmth in some letters, and it got him into court in a breach of promise suit."—Indianapolis Journal.

S. K. Coburn, Mgr. Charlie Scott, Writes: "I had Hall's Catarrh Cure a valuable remedy." Druggists sell it, 75c.

It is estimated that about 2,000,000 bicycles have been made in Europe and America.

To Cure a Cold in One Day. Take LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE TABLETS. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. GHOVA'S signature is on each box. 25c.

The slaughter houses of the City of Mexico net the treasury about \$500,000 a month in taxes.

HAIR HELP

So many persons have hair that is stubborn and dull. It won't grow. What's the reason? Hair needs help just as anything else does at times. The roots require feeding. When hair stops growing it loses its luster. It looks dead.

acts almost instantly on such hair. It awakens new life in the hair bulbs. The effect is astonishing. Your hair grows, becomes thicker, and all dandruff is removed.

And the original color of early life is restored to faded or gray hair. This is always the case.

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RICH, BUT WRETCHED



Fight on for wealth, old "Money Bags," your liver is drying up and bowels wearing out, some day you will cry aloud for health, offering all your wealth, but you will not get it because you neglected Nature in your mad rush to get gold. No matter what you do, or what ails you, to-day is the day—every day is the day—to keep watch of Nature's wants—and help your bowels act regularly—CASCARETS will help Nature help you. Neglect means bile in the blood, foul breath, and awful pains in the back of the head with a loathing and bad feeling for all that is good in life. Don't care how rich or poor you are, you can't be well if you have bowel trouble, you will be regular if you take CASCARETS—get them to-day—CASCARETS—in metal box; cost 10 cents; take one, eat it like candy and it will work gently while you sleep. It cures; that means it strengthens the muscular walls of the bowels and gives them new life; then they act regularly and naturally; that is what you want—it is guaranteed to be found in—

THE IDEAL LAXATIVE

Cascarets

CANDY CATHARTIC

10c. 25c. 50c.

BEST FOR THE BOWELS ALL DRUGGISTS

To any needy mortal suffering from bowel troubles and too poor to buy CASCARETS we will send a box free. Address Sterling Remedy Company, Chicago or New York, mentioning advertisement and paper.